

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:
receiving a request, at a remote facility configured to authorize ~~said~~ the request, to enable ~~a~~ the software option associated with the machine function;
authorizing ~~said~~ the request;
delivering a first enabling signal, from ~~said~~ the remote facility, to an intermediary in response to the authorization; and
delivering a second enabling signal, from ~~said~~ the intermediary, to ~~a~~ the remote machine in response to ~~said~~ the first enabling signal, the second enabling signal configured to enable the software option.
2. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the intermediary authenticates ~~said~~ the first enabling signal.
3. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein delivering ~~said~~ the second enabling signal further comprises delivering ~~said~~ the second enabling signal in response to ~~said~~ authenticating ~~said~~ the first enabling signal.
4. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
establishing a machine specific configuration; and
generating ~~said~~ the software option request in response to ~~said~~ the machine specific configuration.
5. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 4, further comprising delivering ~~said~~ the second enabling signal to a controller located on ~~said~~ the remote machine.
6. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ the request is generated by a software program needing ~~said~~ the software option.

7. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein delivering ~~said~~ the second signal further comprises delivering ~~said~~ the second signal to a plurality of controllers located on ~~said~~ the remote machine.

8. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
initiating a billing process in response to ~~said~~ the authorization.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:
determining if one of an entitlement and a credit is available in response to ~~said~~ the billing process initiation.

10. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement further comprises:

authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement in response to an entitlement associated with ~~said~~ the software option.

11. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the intermediary is a gateway network.

12. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising
generating ~~said~~ the request in response to a controller failing.

13. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ the request includes a failed controller characteristic and a replacement controller characteristic.

14. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement further includes authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement for a time period.

15. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein receiving ~~said~~ the request further comprises receiving ~~said~~ the request from a dealer associated with ~~said~~ the remote machine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 15, wherein authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement further includes authorizing ~~said~~ the enablement by a manufacturer associated with ~~said~~ the remote machine.

17. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising generating a request to enable ~~said~~ the software option by ~~a first~~ the remote machine.

18. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising disabling ~~said~~ the software option on a second machine in response to ~~said~~ the enablement authorization.

19. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 18, wherein delivering ~~said~~ the first enabling signal further comprises delivering ~~said~~ the first enabling signal in response to ~~said~~ the disabling of ~~said~~ the software option.

20. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising scheduling a delivery of ~~said~~ the first enabling signal.

21. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein scheduling ~~said~~ the delivery further comprises scheduling ~~said~~ the delivery in response to a priority of ~~said~~ the request.

22. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein scheduling ~~said~~ the delivery further comprises scheduling ~~said~~ the delivery in response to a priority of ~~said~~ the request and a priority associated with a current use of ~~said~~ the software option.

23. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising delivering a notification to ~~said first~~ the remote machine, ~~said~~ the notification including an indication of when ~~said~~ the request may be fulfilled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:
receiving a request to enable ~~a~~ the software option associated with the machine function;
authorizing ~~said~~ the request;
delivering an enabling signal to ~~a~~ the remote machine, the enabling signal configured to enable the software option; and
distributing at least a portion of ~~said~~ the enabling signal to a plurality of controllers located on ~~said~~ the remote machine.

25. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein ~~said~~ the software option is associated with ~~said~~ the plurality of controllers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 25, wherein delivering an enabling signal to ~~said~~ the remote machine further comprises delivering ~~said~~ the enabling signal to a primary processor, and further wherein ~~said~~ the primary processor delivers a second enabling signal to ~~said~~ the at least one other processor.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a replacement processor of a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:
identifying a failed processor associated with ~~a~~ the replacement processor;
receiving a request to enable ~~a~~ the software option associated with the machine function;
authorizing ~~said~~ the request in response to said ~~identified~~ identifying of the failed processor; and
delivering an enabling signal to ~~said~~ the replacement processor in response to ~~said~~ the authorization, the enabling signal configured to enable the software option.

28. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 27, wherein ~~said~~ the request includes at least one of a failed controller identifier and a replacement controller identifier.

29. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim [[27]] 28, wherein authorizing ~~said the~~ request includes:

authenticating ~~said the~~ failed controller identifier and ~~said the~~ replacement controller identifier, and confirming the requested software option was enabled on ~~said the~~ failed controller.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an entitlement for an enabled software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

receiving, at a remote facility, a request to disable ~~an~~ the enabled software option on the remote machine, the software option associated with the machine function;

disabling ~~said the~~ software option on the remote machine;

receiving a disabled characteristic associated with ~~said the~~ software option; and

establishing an entitlement in response to ~~said the~~ disabled characteristic.

31. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, wherein ~~said the~~ entitlement is associated with ~~said the~~ disabled software option.

32. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising authenticating ~~said the~~ disabled characteristic.

33. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, wherein establishing an entitlement further comprises establishing ~~said the~~ entitlement in response to ~~said the~~ authentication.

34. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising:

receiving a request to enable a software option on a second machine; and

authorizing ~~said the~~ request in response to ~~said the~~ entitlement.

35. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 30, further comprising:
authenticating ~~said~~ the request in response to a controller characteristic and a software option status; and
generating a disable signal in response to ~~said~~ the authentication.

36. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 35, wherein disabling ~~said~~ the software option further comprises disabling ~~said~~ the software option in response to ~~said~~ the disable signal and a machine status.

37. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 36, wherein ~~said~~ the machine status includes one of power up and power down.

38. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 36, wherein ~~said~~ the machine status includes an implement status.

39. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

receiving a request to enable ~~said~~ the software option associated with the machine function of the remote machine;

enabling ~~said~~ the software option on the remote machine during a trial period;

notifying a user with respect to an expiration of ~~said~~ the trial period;

receiving a second request to enable ~~said~~ the software option on the remote machine in response to ~~said~~ the notification;

authorizing ~~said~~ the second request; and

delivering an enabling signal to ~~a~~ the remote machine, the enabling signal configured to enable the software option.

40. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 39, further comprising generating a disable signal in response to ~~said~~ the trial period expiration.

41. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 40, further comprising disabling ~~said~~ the software option in response to ~~said~~ the disable signal and a machine status.

42. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 41, wherein ~~said~~ the machine status includes one of power up and off.

43. (Currently Amended) A method of disabling a software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

receiving a request, at a remote facility, to disable ~~said~~ the software option associated with the machine function of the remote machine;

disabling ~~said~~ the software option on the remote machine; and

receiving a disabled characteristic associated with ~~said~~ the software option.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote customer machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

receiving a request by a manufacturer from a dealer to enable ~~said~~ the software option associated with the machine function of the remote customer machine;

authorizing ~~said~~ the request in response to a dealer characteristic and a machine characteristic; and

delivering an enabling signal to ~~said~~ the remote customer machine, the enabling signal configured to enable the software option.

45. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 44, wherein delivering an enabling signal to ~~said~~ the remote customer machine further comprises:

delivering ~~an~~ the enabling signal to ~~said~~ the dealer in response to ~~said~~ the authorization; and

delivering ~~said~~ the enabling signal to ~~said~~ the remote customer machine in response to ~~said~~ the dealer receipt.

46. (Currently Amended) A method as set forth in claim 44, wherein ~~said~~ the dealer characteristic includes at least one of a service tool identifier, a service representative identifier, a dealer identifier, and a cross reference identifier of ~~said~~ the dealer and ~~said~~ the customer.

47. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 46, wherein ~~said~~ the machine characteristic includes at least one of a software option identifier, a processor identifier, and a configuration identifier.

48. (Currently Amended) A method, as set forth in claim 44, wherein ~~said~~ the authorization further includes authorizing ~~said~~ the request in response to a machine characteristic, a dealer characteristic, and a user characteristic.

49. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a remote machine, comprising:

- establishing a machine specific configuration;
- generating a request to enable ~~said~~ the software option in response to ~~said~~ the machine specific configuration, ~~said~~ the request being authorized at a remote location;
- delivering an enabling signal, from ~~said~~ the remote location, to an intermediary in response to the authorization;
- verifying ~~said~~ the enabling signal by ~~said~~ the intermediary; and
- receiving ~~said~~ the enabling signal, from ~~said~~ the intermediary, at ~~a~~ the remote machine in response to ~~said~~ the verification.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a software option located on a first machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

- establishing a need for ~~a~~ the software option on ~~a~~ the first machine, the software option associated with the machine function of the first machine;
- delivering a request to enable ~~said~~ the software option on ~~said~~ the first machine to a second machine;
- disabling ~~said~~ the software option on ~~said~~ the second machine in response to ~~said~~ the request;
- generating an enabling signal in response to ~~said~~ the disablement; and
- enabling ~~said~~ the software option on ~~said~~ the first machine in response to ~~said~~ the enabling signal.

51. (Currently Amended) A system configured to enable a software option located on a remote machine having a machine function associated with the software option, comprising:

a controller located on ~~a~~ the remote machine, ~~said the~~ controller being configured to generate a request to enable ~~a~~ the software option associated with the machine function of the remote machine;

a remote facility configured to receive ~~said the~~ request, authorize ~~said the~~ request and generate a first enabling signal; and

an intermediary configured to receive ~~said the~~ first enabling signal from ~~said the~~ remote facility, authenticate ~~said the~~ first enabling signal, and responsively deliver a second enabling signal to ~~said the remote~~ machine in response to ~~said the~~ first enabling signal, the second enabling signal configured to enable the software option.